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HERALD TRIBUNE SAYS CIA CHIEF WILL RESIGN

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(Yuriy Babich commentary: "What Is Concealed Behind the Resignation of McCone?")

(Text) The American newspaper New York HERALD TRIBUNE has reported that U.S. Central Intelligence Agency boss John McCone has secretly approached President Johnson with a resignation request. Nominally there are several reasons explaining this step. First, it is explained by age--on 4 January McCone will be 63, and second by the business considerations of McCone himself, who is proud of his reputation as a big businessman and of the nickname "Mister Million" which the press gave him. And, finally, the third nominal reason for McCone's resignation, gathered by inference from observations, is of an ethical nature. McCone does not want to be connected with President Johnson, who, it is not unlikely, wants to have his own man in a post as important as that of director of CIA.

Many people, including American political observers, interpreted all these explanations very skeptically. As a matter of fact, murmurs of such moral considerations, when the matter concerns McCone, can only make a mockery of this concept. It is known, for example, that when he occupied in 1958 the post of head of the Atomic Energy Commission and then in 1961 that of director of CIA, this millionaire, despite the existing laws in the country, did not give a thought to giving up his shares in various industrial and insurance companies. On the contrary, he acquired an additional quantity of shares in one of the country's largest oil corporations, Standard Oil of California, shares worth in all a million dollars. And the workers of CIA, knowing their boss well, from time to time forewarned journalists: When McCone smiles, do not be caught napping, and, by the way, they quickly recalled in this connection that it was not for nothing that the chief of the American knights of the cloak and dagger had already for several years been a member of the trust council of the Jesuit Ignatius Loyala University in San Francisco.

Thus, the affair does not concern moral and other considerations, and the American press prefers for the moment not to speak about the actual reason for McCone's resignation. The reason for it consists, in the first instance, in the serious collapse of American foreign policy, which, to a considerable degree, is formulated on the data provided by the CIA.

Based on its activity on defense of the interests of the largest monopolistic groups, based on the ideology of anticommunism and militarism, the CIA is proving incapable of a more or less objective correct appraisal of the balance of power in the world arena.

The failure of the political course of the United States in such regions of the globe as, for example, Cuba, South Vietnam, and the Congo, is the result of this. The American journalists, David White and Thomas Ross, drawing attention to the subversive aggressive activity of the CIA, just call it "The Invisible Government," which now and then acts independently even of the President of the United States. There is a basis to suspect, White and Ross write, that frequently the foreign policy of the United States as made public in the speeches of the state officials, acts in one direction, while secretly, through the invisible government, it acts in the opposite direction. And can it be otherwise if McCone himself is a big military industrialist, closely connected with a Californian monopolistic group which is building its prosperity on the arms race. Characterizing the opinions of McCone, the journal, (name indistinct), writes that he is possessed with hatred for communism and the revolutionary changes occurring on every continent. This is why, in the compilation of the recommendations of his department to the Government of the United States, McCone made the main thrust on the military solution of international problems an issue. Resolutely opposing the relaxation of international tension which

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began to appear after the signing of the Moscow agreement on the partial banning of nuclear tests, McCone encouraged all the people who attempted to shift the course of the present American government to the right. He does not agree with the present course adopted by Washington, which is compelled to take into consideration the broad mood of the country, (a fact with which?) the majority of observers explain McCone's resignation.

It is reported that during the next few days he will have to continue carrying out his duties, while in Washington the name mentioned more frequently than others as being that of the man who has agreed to take from McCone's hands the post of Director of CIA, is former assistant to the Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric. True, as AP reports, Gilpatric is by no means hastening to take the opportunity of the proposal made to him. One can understand such doubts if (one word indistinct) legacy left behind by John McCone.

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